

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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September 9, 2003

FROM: RUDY LOPEZ, Director
Department of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: ANNUAL RENEWAL OF FEDERAL PATH GRANT ALLOCATION

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve annual Grant renewal and ratify the submission of the annual Grant renewal (Federal Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) in the amount of \$154,608 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.
2. Accept annual Grant allocation (Federal Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) in the amount of \$154,608 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will approve a grant allocation application, ratify submission of the required documents, and allow the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to accept grant funds in the amount of \$154,608 for Federal Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). The Federal government refers to this allocation as a "grant" however; it is not based upon a competitive process. Each year DBH goes through a "grant" planning process with the State Department of Mental Health for these funds. This grant allocation application details the program's services, line item costs, outcomes, etc.

PATH is a grant program authorized under the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990. This block grant represents ongoing federal funding to states for the provision of services on behalf of individuals who are suffering from a severe mental illness or from a co-occurring severe mental illness and substance abuse disorder, and who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Homeless Program has received PATH grant funding for 13 years. Services provided by the homeless program include referrals for primary health services, job training, education services, housing services, and case management services.

The application package consists of:

- Part I, submitted on June 18, 2003 - PATH allocation worksheet, checklist for PATH application, certifications, compliance assurances, federal assurances, intended use plan and federal grant detailed provider budget. DBH received the application from the State on May 29, 2003 with a due date of June 20, 2003. The application indicated that the County's participation in this program remained subject to Board of Supervisors approval.
- Part II, due by October 1, 2003 - to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at that time - Mental Health Board review documentation (completed on July 15, 2003).

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The FY 2003/2004 grant request of \$154,608 reflects a \$22,983 increase over the \$131,625 received for FY 2002/2003. This increase is due to the State's PATH allotment increase. With this additional funding, the California Department of Mental Health (DMH), the agency responsible for distributing the funds, plans to augment each county's standard PATH program. The increased funds are targeted to provide various outreach, treatment, and case management services to the County of San Bernardino's homeless mentally ill population. DBH staff and clinics utilize 100% of these funds to provide the above-mentioned services. Funding is contingent on Board of Supervisor's approval of the annual Grant renewal and acceptance of the annual Grant allocation. This annual renewal process is effective the beginning of each fiscal year.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This grant application has been reviewed by County Counsel (Deputy County Counsel, Charles Larkin) on August 11, 2003 and the Mental Health Commission on July 15, 2003. This agenda item was reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Tom DeSantis, Deputy Administrative Officer and Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst) on August 27, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This grant funding of \$154,608 requires a match of \$51,531, which is funded entirely with State realignment funds. The total expenditure of \$206,139 for this program is included in the DBH Homeless Program's FY 2003-2004 Approved Budget. There is no expected impact to this funding as a result of the changes to the State's budget and funding is expected to continue in subsequent fiscal years.

Cost Reduction Review: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and recommends approval as the grant funding is necessary to ensure service is not interrupted to the this population and because the match is 100% funded from State Realignment funds.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Rudy Lopez, Director, (909) 387-7024